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24998 7590 02/23/2004

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY LLP
2101 L STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20037-1526

EXAMINER

PAIK, STEVE S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2004

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/966,592	10/01/2001	Akinobu Nakabo	O3020.0269/P269	4001

TITLE OF INVENTION: IC CONTACT UNIT AND IC CARD READER

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1330	\$300	\$1630	05/24/2004

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

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B. If the status is changed, pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above and notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

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B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check the box below and enclose the PUBLICATION FEE and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

☐ Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail

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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 4 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

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24998 7590 02/23/2004

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY LLP
2101 L STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20037-1526

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1330	\$300	\$1630	05/24/2004

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
PAIK, STEVE S	2876	235-451000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. Inclusion of assignee data is only appropriate when an assignment has been previously submitted to the USPTO or is being submitted under separate cover. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

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Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent); ☐ individual ☐ corporation or other private group entity ☐ government

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- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

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- ☐ A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
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(Date)

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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WASHINGTON, DC 20037-1526			PAPER NUMBER	

2876

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2004

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 29 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 29 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703) 305-1383. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/966,592

Examiner

Steven S. Paik

Applicant(s)

NAKABO, AKINOBU

Art Unit

2876

-- **The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 01/28/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 01 October 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>02/05/2004</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 29, 2003 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed December 29, 2003. The Amendment includes amended claims 1, 12, and 18 and newly added claims 21 and 22.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Taylor Jordan on February 5, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Presently Amended) An IC contact unit, comprising:

an actuator including a movable plunger;

a depressing member pivotably movable in relation to said plunger;

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a movable support including an IC contact point and a pawl member, said movable support being movable by said depressing member and said pawl member being movable by said depressing member between a first position in which said pawl member ~~{it}~~ projects to a card transfer line and a second position in which said pawl member ~~{it}~~ retreats upward from said card transfer line, wherein when said pawl member is in said first position and an IC card is moved in a card transfer direction, said ~~{an}~~ IC card is prohibited from being transferred to the end of said card transfer line; and

wherein the force of said IC card moved into contact with said pawl member moves said movable support such that said IC contact point contacts with the IC card.

2. (Original) The IC contact unit of claim 1, comprising a unit main body on which said movable support is mounted.

3. (Original) The IC contact unit of claim 2, wherein said unit main body comprises a guide portion, and said movable support comprises a guide member, said guide portion and said guide member guiding the movement of said movable support.

4. (Original) The IC contact unit of claim 3, wherein said guide portion comprises a pair of front guide holes and a pair of back guide holes.

5. (Original) The IC contact unit of claim 4, wherein said front guide holes comprise a horizontal portion, a slant portion, and a vertical portion.

6. (Original) The IC contact unit of claim 4, wherein said back guide holes comprise a horizontal portion and a slant portion.

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7. (Original) The IC contact unit of claim 4, wherein said guide member comprises a pair of shafts, one said shaft movably inserted in said front guide holes and the other said shaft movably inserted in said back guide holes.

8. (Original) The IC contact unit of claim 3, comprising urging means which exerts a bias in a direction away from the card transfer line on said movable support.

9. (Original) The IC contact unit of claim 8, wherein said urging means comprises a spring attached to said unit main body and said guide member.

10. (Original) The IC contact unit of claim 1, wherein said plunger comprises a transversely directed pin about which said depressing member is pivotably movable.

11. (Original) The IC contact unit of claim 1, wherein said depressing member comprises a vertical portion and a horizontal portion.

12. (Presently Amended) An IC card reader, comprising:

- a card reader main body;

- a plurality of transfer rollers disposed about a card transfer line formed in said card reader main body; and

- an IC contact unit disposed between said transfer rollers and a press roller, comprising:

- an actuator including a movable plunger;

- a depressing member pivotably movable in relation to said plunger;

- a movable support including an IC contact point and a pawl member,

- said movable support being movable in a direction of the card transfer line by

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said depressing member and said pawl member being movable by said depressing member between a first position in which said pawl member [it] projects to a card transfer line and a second position in which said pawl member [it] retreats upward from said card transfer line; and

wherein the force of an IC card moved by said transfer rollers into contact with said pawl member moves said movable support such that said IC contact point contacts with the IC card.

13. (Original) The IC card reader of claim 12, comprising, a unit main body on which said movable support is mounted, wherein said unit main body comprises a guide portion, and said movable support comprises a guide member, said guide portion and said guide member guiding the movement of said movable support.

14. (Original) The IC card reader of claim 13, wherein said guide portion comprises a pair of front guide holes and a pair of back guide holes and said guide member comprises a pair of shafts, one said shaft movably inserted in said front guide holes and the other said shaft movably inserted in said back guide holes.

15. (Original) The IC card reader of claim 14, wherein said front guide holes comprise a horizontal portion, a slant portion, and a vertical portion and said back guide holes comprise a horizontal portion and a slant portion.

16. (Original) The IC card reader of claim 13, comprising urging means which exerts a bias in a direction away from the card transfer line on said movable support, wherein said urging means comprises a spring attached to said unit main body and said guide member.

17. (Original) The IC card reader of claim 12, wherein said plunger comprises a

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transversely directed pin about which said depressing member is pivotably movable.

18. (Previously Amended) A method for reading information on an IC card, comprising the steps of:

- moving the IC card along a card transfer line;

- contacting the IC card with a pawl member of a movable support, wherein said pawl member prevents movement of said IC card in a card transfer direction;

- utilizing the force from the movement of the IC card to move the movable support between a position in which the pawl member is above the card transfer line to a position in which the pawl member projects to the card transfer line and an IC contact point located on a lower surface of the movable support contacts with the IC card; and

- reading information on the IC card.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said moving step comprises translating rotational movement of a plurality of transfer rollers to the IC card along the card transfer line.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising guiding the movement of the movable support.

21. (Presently Amended) An IC contact unit, comprising:

- an actuator including a movable plunger;

- a depressing member pivotably movable in relation to said plunger;

- a movable support including an IC contact point and a pawl member, said movable support being movable by said depressing member and said pawl member being

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movable by said depressing member between a first position in which said pawl member {it} projects to a card transfer line and a second position in which said pawl member {it} retreats upward from said card transfer line, allowing said IC card to be transferred across said IC contact point to the end of said card transfer line; and

wherein the force of an IC card moved into contact with said pawl member moves said movable support such that said IC contact point contacts with the IC card.

22. (Previously added) A method for reading information on an IC card, comprising the steps of:

moving a pawl member downward across a card transfer line;

moving the IC card along said card transfer line;

contacting the IC card with a pawl member of a movable support;

utilizing the force from the movement of the IC card to move the movable support between a position in which the pawl member is above the card transfer line to a position in which the pawl member projects to the card transfer line and an IC contact point located on a lower surface of the movable support contacts with the IC card;

reading information on the IC card;

moving said pawl member upward away from said card transfer line; and

transferring said IC card member across said contact point to the end of said card transfer line or transferring said IC card away from said contact point toward an exit/inlet portion.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-22 are allowed.

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The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closet prior art of the record, Ieda (US 5,847,371), taken alone or in combination of other references, does not teach or fairly suggest the claimed IC card unit and method for reading information on an IC card comprising *inter alia* a movable support including an IC contact point and a pawl member, the movable support being movable by the depressing member and the pawl member being movable by the depressing member between a first position in which the pawl member projects to a card transfer line and a second position in which the pawl member retreats upward from the card transfer line, where the pawl member is in the first position and an IC card is moved in a card transfer direction, the IC card is prohibited from being transferred to the end of the card transfer line. Ieda discloses a pawl portion of the card holding member 5 blocks up the insertion opening 10a, thereby preventing discharging of the IC card. Furthermore the card discharging member moves a pawl member. In addition, Ieda lacks the use of transfer roller and an IC contact unit disposed between the transfer rollers and a press roller. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify teachings of prior art to meet the claimed limitations as set forth in the present claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven S. Paik whose telephone number is 571-272-2404. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri (5:30am-2:00pm).

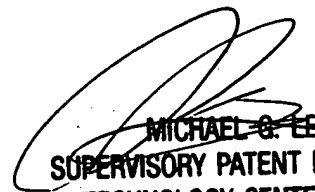
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Steven S. Paik
Examiner
Art Unit 2876

ssp



MICHAEL G. LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800